

## **Downer Ave. Sentry sold, will become Osco - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (WI) - July 16, 1998 - page 7**

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The Sentry Food Store property at 2607 N. Downer Ave. has been sold to Jewel-Osco and will be converted to an Osco drugstore, Otto Wenz, owner of the Sentry store at that location for 30 years, said Wednesday.

The Sentry will remain open until the end of September, Wenz said.

The remodeled Osco will open in the spring, a Jewel-Osco spokeswoman said.

"We bought out his lease, and we bought the property," said Karen Ramos of Jewel-Osco, which is based in Melrose Park, Ill.

Terms of the deal were not released.

Wenz, 63, said he had approached Jewel-Osco about the purchase.

"Unfortunately, our business has dwindled in the last three years, and I have decided to do what is best for my future," Wenz said.

Wenz said one of the main reasons for getting out of the location was because "parking was a big problem and it is difficult making it on the walk-in trade. I tried very hard to keep it alive."

He said competition from nearby supermarkets cut into business.

Wenz said an attempt to sell to Jewel-Osco three years ago met with outcry from east side residents, and the sale by property owner Earl D. Lillydahl was not completed.

At that time, Wenz renewed his lease for 10 years.

Jewel-Osco has 15 freestanding Osco stores in the Milwaukee area and four Jewel stores, which are being converted to Jewel-Oscos.

After the Downer Ave. Sentry closes, Sentry Foods will have 57 stores in southeast Wisconsin.

### **CITATION (MLA STYLE)**

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